

CITY OF REDMOND TRAILS COMMISSION

MINUTES — December 1, 2004 **Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chairperson Gary Smith, Kris Colt, Ken Bechmann, Glenn Eades, Julie Barnfather (arrived 7:10 p.m.), Sue Chenault (arrived 7:30 p.m.)

ABSENT: Youth advocate Morgan Hargraves

CITY STAFF: Linda Gorremans, Parks Planning; Pam Maybee, Recording Secretary

GUESTS: Dave Alm, Public Works

Note: Bold/italic text denotes Staff and Commissioner follow-up resulting from this meeting.

AGENDA

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Gary Smith called to order the regular meeting of the Redmond Trails Commission (RTC) at 7:05 p.m. at the Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center (ORSCC).

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Smith noted the minutes of October 27, 2004 were composed with less narrative and more summary, per request of Commission at last meeting.

Motion for approval of October 27, 2004 RTC minutes as submitted by:

Commissioner Eades

Second by: Colt

Motion carried: Unanimous 4-0

III. ITEMS FROM THE AUDIENCE

A. Watershed Preserve

Miles Anderson, a citizen of Woodinville, referenced an email he sent to the Redmond Park Board requesting construction of a bicycle-only trail in the Watershed Preserve.

Colt gave a summary of the Preserve's history highlighting the following:

- The master plan dictates keeping it as a Preserve.
- Every five years the City and Council re-visit the Plan to assess (next assessment is in three years).
- Any changes/additions to trails would need to be approved via the master plan.
- Concepts for additional trails are in the master plan (there was no money in 2001 to construct)
- Outcome of the last assessment was a recommendation for an eco system management plan. Before and if any changes are made, a proper survey must be done assessing the impact to wildlife (people usage being a secondary consideration).

Barnfather also added history:

- The 2001 assessment consensus was there would be no need to create more trails.
- The existing bike trail is a connector, and was not designed as a primary biking opportunity.
- The City emphasized looking at other bike trails in the area for users; for example, there was a plan by King County for a mountain bike park, possibly by the City of Sammamish.

Commissioner discussion ensued. Recommendations to Miles were as follows:

- Contact King County to voice his opinion, since he lives within the County.
- Provide public input at the next review in 2006.
- Take questions/concerns to the Park Board and City Council.
- Visit the administrative office to look at the records and information from the master plan.

Additional discussion was postponed to the next RTC meeting in January 2005.

B. Nicholls' Trail

Colt supported and requested the City purchase the Nicholls' trail to preserve the outside loop of the Farrel-McWhirter trail. The 5-year, \$1.00/year agreement would be concluded April 2005.

Gorremans reported:

- Staff has asked Penny Nicholls to renew the contract for another 5 years.
- Their discussion also touched on donating or selling the land to the City.
- Gorremans will meet with Nicholls' sister and Danny Hopkins, Parks and Recreation Director, tomorrow to discuss further.
- The City's choices in order of preference are these: (1) trail agreement in perpetuity, (2) 5-year contract, and (3) purchase.

Gorremans will report next month on the outcome. Smith requested a map of trail and property lines; staff will follow up.

Motion for approval of City staff to negotiate either an easement in perpetuity or the purchase of the Nicholls' trail property (not a 5-year contract) by: Commissioner Colt

Second by: Commissioner Eades

Motion carried: 6-0 unanimous

IV. ITEMS OF INTEREST/HANDOUTS

A. Trails for Health Handout - FYI

V. DISCUSSION AND REPORTS

A. Potential PSE Trail Safety Measures

Dave Alm, Transportation Operations Manager, Public Works, relayed that a few citizens living in the north Redmond and Education Hill area expressed these concerns regarding the PSE trail crossing of these streets:

- SR 202: Erosion and ruts occur on the east trail descent westbound to SR 202
 - Staff recommends a flatter, controlled, paved, no gravel threshold to street.
- 104th Street: Gravel migrates over rolled curbs out to the sidewalk and pan of street. Where most control is needed, it is the loosest.

- Staff recommends paving.
- Recommends addressing bollard designs, also.

Alm proposed a design process and project to establish stabilization where the trails come onto the roadways. Alternative design proposals would be discussed with staff, Park Board, RTC, Pedestrian-Bicycle Advisory Committee (PBAC), and public. Funding has not been identified yet; possibly joint funding between Public Work and Parks.

Commissioners' comments:

- Paving on a hill is good for bikes, but would be dangerous for other users, e.g., equestrians.
- Expressed support for a proposal.
- Suggested providing both a hard surface and a soft surface parallel trail.
- PBAC supports staff's proposed crossing and segment improvement recommendations.

Alm assured approaches would not be on steep sections of the PSE, rather, a flat environment at the street crossing.

Alm outlined his responsibilities as to (1) keep accidents from happening at crossings, (2) minimize maintenance, and (3) make multi-modal available through developing transportation facilities. He expressed support for non-motorized transportation as a viable alternative to transportation issues.

B. SR 520/SR 202 Future Trail Interface

Alm reported on the following:

- There is a preliminary design alignment between SR 202 and Riverwalk trail, which works in harmony with the future bridge for 160th Ave NE. Intersection is being constructed now. Alignments will be altered when street is signalized.
- The trail behind Safeway would be built next year.

Alm showed the "Nickel fund SR 520 Interchange Bike Trail Project" aerial map, pointing out the proposed non-motorized facilities in the vicinity of 520 and Redmond Way interchange. He noted issues of non-motorized transportation have been debated for several months between WADOT, King County, and the City.

These projects are being proposed and debated by the governmental agencies involved:

- Separated bike trail from Avondale Road when widening the roadway from 76th Street to connect with Redmond Way.
- Bridge over the freeway for non-motorized transportation. Transportation money could fund it—a future debate.
- Elevation of the bridge on Redmond Way—all heavily debated. Research is ongoing. It is funded at \$105 million.
 - Trail heading west from behind Safeway would either go under the Redmond Way bridge when it is raised, or become a fly-over bridge over Redmond Way. The transportation plan must accommodate the trail—major confrontations with DOT over this.
 - Redmond is pushing to allow for the bridge's future elevation in the project and would demand the water and/or trail go under.
 - Not enough information to have a position yet; it is still being engineered.
- Union Hill Road Phase II project presents significant capacity improvements (20%). It is a \$3.75 million dollar project.

Regarding the County's project proposal from East Lake Sammamish trail over 520-off ramp, Alm reported the following:

- King County proposes to build a temporary alignment identical to the one the City has been fighting against.
- With DOT approval, County will build a connection from the East Lake Sammamish trail over the 520 off-ramp, to a separated path from Redmond Way, crossing at the signal. County will stabilize the existing bridge.
 - Parametrix is a sub-consultant working for the state on this project, given the task of the non-motorized trail connection issues.
 - Inca Engineers has been hired by Redmond to work on its issues.
 - City is proposing a separated grade over 520 off-ramp, east to Redmond Way to at-grade going north on Redmond Way.

Alm noted the 520/202 project is a dynamic, changing situation, and he would keep RTC apprised.

Colt reminded Alm of a gateway bridge over Bear Creek, proposed by Parametrix. RTC approved it at the time, as it was a bridge that accommodated all users. ***Alm will research this.***

C. New Water Trail Opportunities - Kayaking

Gorremans reported the Sammamish River project from Redmond Way to the railroad bridge is a City habitat enhancement project that has resulted in a channel, an embankment, and a slightly different trail alignment and width (12 foot).

Smith reported that as part of Redmond Lights, there would be a kayaking event, to include Smith and others. Commissioners were invited to participate and/or attend.

D. Soft Surface Trail Implementation Plan

Gorremans reported that as of January 2005, \$25,000 in funding for soft surface trails would be available. Methodology handout was distributed. Gorremans asked RTC the following:

- Consider how the money should be used.
- Discuss next meeting (and subsequent meetings), prioritizing items for the next two years using this money, analyzing the trails network—specifically soft surface trails in and around the City, including the Watershed.
- Find where trails are—connectors and other segments—and incorporate them.
- Commissioners could supply specific projects as well.
- Locate “forgotten” trails around the City in neighborhoods; these could become connectors when developments go in.

Additional information by staff:

- Ashford Trail’s is adjacent to the proposed Perrigo Heights and will remain.
- Nike to Hartman trail proposal: if Perrigo Heights development goes through, the developer would be required to dedicate a trail easement and possibly build the trail as part of the development. Currently, there are footpath trails over private property.

Gorremans noted this topic would be an ongoing discussion at RTC meetings for a while. ***Staff will include on next month’s agenda.***

E. Tour Recap

Smith asked Commissioners to consider whether or not they would prefer a hiking or van tour next year. ***Commissioners will consider next year the type of tour they want, depending on issues that come up.***

F. Reports

- Scooter Ordinance

Gorremans referenced an email from Jeff Palmer. She reported that in October 2004, the City adopted restrictions and enforcements on motorized scooters. City currently is working out the details. The City Council Public Safety Committee is reviewing it.

Gorremans volunteered to invite Palmer to the RTC January meeting to discuss issues. ***RTC requested an email from Palmer to see the draft proposals; Gorremans will follow up.***

- Evans Trail Construction

Gorremans reported the following:

- Construction is on schedule.
- Wire for fence is not available yet.
- Trail is paved (by Barrett Farm) to elevated portion.
- Paving could be completed in the next two weeks.
- Mitigation site will begin next week (also at the Barrett Farm).
- Trail is paved at the north end, except portion over creek.
- Bridge going in today; will pave that portion at time of south end paving.
- Fencing installation along some private properties still incomplete.
- Finished date: end of January.
- Parametrix was asked to work on Phase B, with new plans and specs for the elevated portion across Union Shares.
- Any grand opening would probably follow Phase B, unless RTC would like to have a simple ribbon cutting prior to that.

- New Trails Commissioner Selection

There were two applicants; one will be interviewed on 12/9/04, 1:30 p.m. by the Mayor, Smith and Bechmann. The other applicant was interviewed two years ago; a second interview was deemed unnecessary.

- City Council Introduction to Morgan

Gorremans reported Tim Cox, Manager of Parks Planning, would arrange for youth advocate Morgan Hargraves, to be introduced to City Council. ***Cox will email the date and ask RTC volunteers to attend.***

- Watershed Trail Correspondence – Covered at the beginning of the meeting.
- Watershed Cougar Report

Chenault reported there were three cougar cub sightings on citizens' property bordering the Watershed Preserve. Due to the harm and demise of citizen's animals, two of the cubs were shot (one escaped) by Dept. of Fish and Wildlife. The mother cougar was killed accidentally by a motorcycle.

- Park Bond - not on the December Park Board agenda.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Smith at 9:15 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Recording Secretary, Pam Maybee

**THE NEXT REDMOND TRAILS COMMISSION MEETING:
Wednesday, January 26, 2005
Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center
7:00 p.m.**